



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

5 AUGUST 2021

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Los Angeles – Man Accused of Leaving Alleged Firebombs in Subway Station

(U) Frederick Brown, 50, was arrested after allegedly leaving "Molotov Cocktail"-style incendiary devices at a subway station in Los Angeles. Brown was detained at the MTA MacArthur Park Red Line station and was being held with no bail. In addition to leaving three homemade devices containing liquid smelling like gasoline, police indicated Brown had two replica handguns at the time of his arrest. The LAPD said it believes Brown also called the FBI last Thursday and claimed he was being stalked by gang members, was armed with pipe bombs, and was prepared to use the bombs to defend himself.

SOURCE: 4 August 2021, [NBC Los Angeles](#)

(U) Stockton – Woman Pleads Guilty to Identity Theft, EDD Fraud Schemes

(U) Hopelyn Rhiannon Ausk pleaded guilty this week to unemployment fraud and identity theft schemes, the US Department of Justice announced. Between May and September in 2020, Ausk targeted California's Employment Development Department's unemployment program by using victims' personal information to submit 20 fraudulent claims, 12 of which paid over \$160,000 in debit cards that were mailed to her home. Additionally, between January 2019 and September 2020, Ausk conducted a bank fraud scheme that involved her stealing bank cards, mail, victims' financial information, checks, and personal information. Ausk faces up to 20 years in prison for mail fraud, up to 30 years for bank fraud, in addition to a mandatory additional two years and a maximum fine of \$250,000 on each count.

SOURCE: 4 August 2021, [CBS Sacramento](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST LAND BORDER

(U) Mexico – Authorities Rescue Workers Who Were Held Captive and Forced to Build a Tunnel

(U) Mexicali – Six men were rescued from a home where they were held captive by members of a Mexican criminal organization that forced them to build a tunnel for smuggling drugs into the United States. The kidnapped workers were saved after one of the victims went up to a security forces convoy that had passed by the residence in the Mexicali neighborhood of Santa Clara. The home was just 100 yards from the international border line. The tunnel, which went under construction at the beginning of the year, was located 52 feet below the ground surface and extended 262 feet out towards the Grand Plaza Outlets in the California border town of Calexico.

SOURCE: 4 August 2021, [Dallas News](#)

(U) Texas – At Least Ten Dead, 20 Injured from Overloaded Van Crash

(U) Encino – An overloaded van carrying 29 migrants crashed yesterday on a remote South Texas highway, killing at least 10 people, including the driver, and injuring 20 others. The crash happened on US Highway 281 in Encino, about 50 miles north of McAllen. Officials believe all of the passengers were migrants and that the vehicle crashed after the driver lost control of the speeding vehicle. The 20 people who survived the crash all have serious to critical injuries.

SOURCE: 4 August 2021, [Dallas News](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Florida – Seventeen Arrested in Undercover Child Predator Sting Operation

(U) Winter Haven – Over a dozen arrests were made after suspects thought they were on their way to meet young teenagers to have sex, but it turned out they were communicating with undercover detectives across several agencies in central Florida. Among those arrested were three Walt Disney World employees, a registered nurse, and a married man visiting from California. The six-day operation targeted those who use the internet to prey on children. In total, 17 suspects face 49 felonies and two misdemeanors. All but one lived in central Florida. A man, identified as 33-year-old Jarrod Justice, was visiting from Los Angeles.

SOURCE: 4 August 2021, [FOX13](#)

(U) Massachusetts – Governor Signs Bill Creating State Hate Crimes Task Force

(U) Boston – Massachusetts Republican Governor Charlie Baker signed a bill creating a state hate crimes task force. The task force is charged with advising state leaders on issues relating to hate crime, including its prevalence, ways to prevent it, and how to best support victims. The task force is also charged with promoting “full and effective cooperation and coordination among law enforcement agencies and communities affected by hate crimes” to help improve prevention, investigation and prosecution and to develop best practices related to technical assistance for school districts that may seek to incorporate hate crime education into their curricula. Under the new law, the task force must include representatives of victim assistance agencies, advocates for communities affected by hate crimes, individuals with expertise and representatives from state, local or university police departments.

SOURCE: 4 August 2021, [WBUR](#)

(U) Nevada – Four MS-13 Members Indicted in Ten Las Vegas-Area Killings

(U) Las Vegas – Four accused members of the MS-13 gang have been indicted in Las Vegas on racketeering conspiracy charges stemming from 10 killings and abductions that police and the FBI identified in 2018. A filed statement said crimes occurred from March 2017 to March 2018, attributed one non-fatal shooting in February 2018 to the defendants, and said five slain victims were also kidnapped. Kidnapping and murder in aid of racketeering are among the 38 counts in the indictment that alleges a conspiracy with ties to Los Angeles and the central California town of Mendota. The Las Vegas case identified the four defendants as members of the Parkview clique of MS-13.

SOURCE: 5 August 2021, [AP News](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Australia – Man Arrested and Charged with Terrorism Offenses

(U) Sydney – Counter-terrorism police have charged a 39-year-old man with preparation for foreign incursions, alleging he played a senior role in a Brisbane-based group that maintained a desire to travel to Syria to engage in hostile activities. The 39-year-old man was arrested in mid-July when he arrived at the Sydney International Airport from Saudi Arabia, where he had been since 2019. The man has been charged with preparations for incursions into foreign states for purpose of engaging in hostile activities, an offense that carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in jail if convicted. The Australian Federal Police said there was no ongoing threat to the community relating to the matter.

SOURCE: 4 August 2021, [Reuters](#)

UNCLASSIFIED

(U) United Arab Emirates – Hijackers Abandon Vessel in the Gulf of Oman

(U) Fujairah – The hijackers who captured a vessel off the coast of the United Arab Emirates in the Gulf of Oman left the targeted ship, ending a ship seizure that revived fears of an escalation in Mideast waters. Intruders boarded a Panama-flagged asphalt tanker called Asphalt Princess sailing off the coast of Fujairah on Tuesday. The official news agency of Oman's military said it received reports that the Asphalt Princess had been hijacked and dispatched Royal Air Force maritime patrol aircraft and naval vessels to contribute to securing international waters. The details of who briefly impounded the asphalt tanker and why remain unclear. Over the past years, rising tensions between the United States and Iran have played out in the waters of the Persian Gulf, where just last week a drone attack on an oil tanker linked to an Israeli billionaire off the coast of Oman killed two crew members.

SOURCE: 5 August 2021, [Claims Journal](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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